


LUCIFER.



THE LIGHT-BEARER.

ENTERED AT THE CHICAGO POSTOFFICE AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.
CENSORED BY THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES BEFORE DELIVERY TO SUBSCRIBERS.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

CHICAGO, ILL., NOV. 9, E. M. 305 [C. E. 1905].

WHOLE NO. 1052

LITERATURE OF PROTEST.

Resistance is the law of life.

No; not the law, but the necessary condition of life, of all organized individualized life.

When we cease to resist we cease to live.

But while this is true as a general statement, there is always a choice of methods of resistance. The most common method is to resist force with force, meaning the *lex talionis*, law of retaliation—an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life. Upon this principle, this law, all human governments are built and administered, so far as I know.

Another method of resistance is by opposing evil with good; repelling hate with love; meeting curses with blessings. This method does not mean slavish submission to invasion or exploitation. Doing good for evil is quite consistent with a strong and manly protest, a resolute and courageous and determined remonstrance against acts of invasion; and when all other means have failed it is quite consistent with compulsory restraint of the evildoer. I maintain the doctrine that there is nothing man or woman can do but may be good, right and proper to do under conceivable conditions. No act is good or bad of itself.

Applying these principles—this fundamental “basis of ethics”—to LUCIFER, its work and its workers:

We find ourselves invaded, exploited, robbed; deprived of our just share of the common mail facilities, for whose running expenses we are supposed to be paying our equitable share; deprived of our property, month after month, with no opportunity allowed to defend our right before a “jury of our peers,” which opportunity is commonly believed to be the most fundamental civil right of every freeman when his personal liberty is invaded, or when the possession and use of his property is denied him.

We have protested.

We have remonstrated.

We have appealed to the sense of justice believed to be inherent in the minds of all sane and humane people.

We have appealed to the traditions that have come down to us from the time of the formation of the so-called American Republic—the teachings of such men as Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. These traditions, these laws, guarantee freedom of speech and of press, and the right of trial by a jury of our peers—which means, if it means anything, a trial by citizens who are so well informed in matters pertaining to personal and civil rights that they do not need to be instructed and coached by a partizan judge appointed by a partizan president and confirmed in office by a “House of Lords” whose wealth makes them interested in maintaining special privileges for the few rather than in securing equal rights for all.

Up to the present time our appeals have been in vain; our remonstrances and protests unheeded. Invasion has followed invasion, robbery has succeeded robbery in quick succession. Judging from the nature of the charges against us, judging from the flimsy pretexts on which numbers 1045, 1046 and 1050 of LUCIFER were declared unavailable and consigned to the “dead letter” office, there to be destroyed, it will not be long until no pretext whatever will be needed, nothing but the arbitrary will of the censor, to cause the suppression and destruction of ANY publication that may not please the prejudices or the whims of the “man clothed with a little brief authority.”

Discouraging as the outlook now seems, we have not lost all

faith in resistance to tyranny by means of protest, remonstrance and appeal to the press and people of the United States and of the liberty-loving people of all lands and tongues. In order to make more effective our campaign of protest and remonstrance a few of us are asking for help in distributing the following named booklets that represent to a great degree the *vanguard* of the Literature of Protest against the bureaucratic methods of the postal department of the United States government.

★ ★ ★

First, “Who Is the Enemy; Anthony Comstock or You?” This is a well written pamphlet of sixty-three pages, printed on superior paper, with large type. The author and publisher is Edwin C. Walker, of 244 West One Hundred and Forty-third street, New York City. In this pamphlet, in his exceptionally clear, logical and forceful manner, Mr. Walker has summarized the history of the doings of New York “Society for the Prevention of Vice,” and of its secretary and chief agent, Anthony Comstock; also the history and real character of the Federal statutes under which the postal censorship has got in its work for the past thirty years. Published by the author and sold by him for 20 cents per copy. Also sent from this office postpaid on receipt of price.

★ ★ ★

Second, “Do You Want Free Speech?” by James F. Morton, Jr. Price, 10 cents per copy. The quality and style of this booklet may be gathered from the opening paragraph:

“The cause of free speech is the cause of man. A gagged mouth is worse than a shackled body. Truth is born of open discussion. The days of the inquisition were the dark days of the human race. A beneficial censorship is a contradiction in terms. Every censor is, consciously or unconsciously, an enemy of humanity. The paltry excuses for restriction of free discussion sometimes to be heard from pulpits or read in newspaper columns, always have their genesis in corrupt motives or in gross ignorance. No honest man needs to fear the open discussion of any question. When all sides are given a full hearing, there can be no fear of the defeat of the truth. Conscious error likes to creep into dark holes, and shuns the bright light of day. The whine that the opposition should be suppressed comes from cowards who have no real faith in the convincing power of that in which they pretend to believe. The persecutor brands himself in the eyes of the coming age. He may triumph for the moment; but his memory becomes a stench in the nostrils of future generations; and his cause is doomed, unless worthier advocates succeed in purifying it from the stain. Comstock is the greatest enemy of purity in the United States, as Philip the Second of Spain was in reality the deadliest foe of Christianity, and as those who suppress the utterance of anarchist opinions are the worst traitors to the government they profess to adore. The crowned madman of Germany has done more to bring monarchy into disrepute than the entire radical press of Europe; and his lese majeste laws have only succeeded in bringing him into richly deserved contempt.”

Published by the author at the office of the “Demonstrator,” Lake Bay, Washington. Sent also from this office, and from the author’s present address, 244 West One Hundred and Forty-third street, New York City.

★ ★ ★

Third, “The Rights of Periodicals.” “The Most Dangerous Assassin Is He Who Strikes at the Liberty of the Press.” By James F. Morton, Jr., A. M. Published by the author at 244 West One Hundred and Forty-third street, New York City. Price, 10 cents.

This pamphlet is a reprint of an article first published in the “Public,” Chicago, Louis F. Post, editor, and is chiefly devoted to a history of the doings of “Edwin C. Madden, third assistant Postmaster general, the chief agent of the restrictive policy of the past

few years." One of the despotic methods of this man Madden is thus recited:

"A strange feature of the recent department policy has been the refusal to give specific rulings or to answer questions, which would enable legitimate publishers to make sure of complying with the law as interpreted by the postoffice officials. LUCIFER, of Chicago, was notified that it carried too much personal advertising, and must show cause why its second-class privilege should not be taken from it. To the request of the publisher for a decision as to how large a proportion of personal advertising would be allowed, the answer was made that the department refused to rule on the subject. The unfortunate publisher was simply called on to conform to an unknown standard existing solely in the mind of Mr. Madden. Few despots have ever gone so far as this. While ignorance of law is held to excuse no one, the law must at least exist in some accessible form. Except in the most violent tyranny, no man has ever been punished for violating the terms of a secret edict, which has never left the closet of the autocrat who drew it up. To term such a monstrous injustice unconstitutional is to use a very mild term. More than one publisher has complained of a similar experience. The standard, which must be obeyed by instinct, without being known, is evidently an elastic one, since the Delineator, using seventy pages of a single issue to describe and advertise the patterns made by the firm issuing the periodical, as clearly for 'advertising purpose' as any of the papers Mr. Madden has attacked on this pretext, has never had the slightest trouble with the authorities. The Demonstrator, entered at Lakeby, Wash., was notified that its exchange formed too large a percentage of its circulation list. An inquiry as to what percentage would be deemed 'legitimate' was met with a refusal to give any information. The publisher must guess at it, under the penalty of losing his privilege if he happens to guess incorrectly, in a matter in no way defined by law, and depending on the mere whim of a single individual. This extraordinary method of suspending a sword of Damocles above the heads of publishers, who ask nothing better than to obey the strictest letter of the law, hardly falls under any recognized principle of jurisprudence."

* * *

Fourth, "The Conspiracy Against Free Speech and Free Press." By George Pyburn, M. D. Price, 6 cents. A sample of Dr. Pyburn's reasoning is found in the following paragraph:

"Look at the forms in which this spirit of opposition to liberty, of hatred of free speech and a free press, manifests itself. First, there is the censorship exercised by the Postoffice Department. This thing shall not be transmitted by mail, it is antagonistic to the ruling powers; that thing does not please Anthony Comstock, it is obscene; the other matter is inflammatory, seditious, and not acceptable to the 'government.' Now the point here contended for is this: *an executive officer or department is incompetent—by law, and in fact—to exercise judicial functions.* Let matter passing through the mail—if you must discriminate—be presented or indicted along with its publishers, in the proper courts, as libelous or indecent and unfit for transmission upon clearly defined principles; let issue be joined, tried, and adjudged—Yes or No. Then the whole question of the right to print freely could be discussed and the decision referred to the highest tribunal of the land. Publicity would advertise the issue, and prevent narrow-minded officials from invading successfully the rights of a citizen. For we must consider that this right to the use of the mails is a kind of property or 'chose in action'—common property if the paradox may be allowed—and should not be taken away without due process of law. Further, fairness would insist that only after due adjudication of unfitness for transmission, and enjoinder thereof, should a person be held misdemeanant for mailing any printed or written matter whatsoever. The postal department should not be permitted to neutralize or abridge the liberties of the citizen. Otherwise the postal department is above the fundamental law of the land."

Published by Edwin C. Walker, 244 West One Hundred and Forty-third street, New York City.

* * *

Fifth, "Our Advancing Postal Censorship." By Louis F. Post, editor of "The Public," Chicago. This booklet of twenty-eight pages is a reprint of an editorial first published in "The Public" August 12, 1905. In this editorial Mr. Post shows that he has studied his subject with the most painstaking and careful attention to details, especially the details of the treatment received from the censorship by LUCIFER during the past two years. He gives the correspondence with the heads of the department at Washington and himself, in his effort to get at the exact facts and reasons for denying to LUCIFER the "second class privilege," as well as the facts concerning the suppression and destruction of whole number one thousand of that publication. Mr. Post is careful to state that he undertook and performed all this labor not as a partisan of LUCIFER, but simply in the interest of justice, and of freedom of the press. On this point he says:

"The inference seems to us unavoidable that the issue of LUCIFER of December 17, 1903, was excluded from the mails, not because of any violation of the postal statute, but because it advocated doctrines of social life at variance with those to which the postal cen-

sors are professedly devoted. In other words, it was suppressed, not for decency's sake, but for opinion's sake. With the opinions intended to be censured by the suppression of LUCIFER we are entirely out of sympathy. Were they up for discussion under circumstances demanding our participation, we should emphatically condemn them—not because they are unconventional, but because we believe them to be unsound. But the question here is not whether they are unsound. It is whether their discussion shall be forbidden. On that issue we yield to no one in demanding the fullest freedom of discussion for every debatable question. Nothing but error can suffer from honest debate."

Published by "The Public" Publishing Company, First National Bank Building, Chicago. Price, single copy, 3 cents; by the hundred, \$1.50.

* * *

These booklets will all be sent in quantity from this office, post-paid, at reduced or wholesale prices, so long as the supply lasts. Postage stamps of any denomination accepted in payment.

The Literature of Protest against the autocratic, the bureaucratic methods of the United States postal department is not confined to these five booklets. With these will be sent free other leaflets and pamphlets treating of the same general subject—but this article is already too long for further description in this issue.

Shall we hear from the lovers of liberty and justice everywhere?
M. HARMAN.

FREE SPEECH OR SLAVERY?

It is a mere commonplace that freedom of expression is a fundamental condition of progress. The darkest period of human history is universally recognized to have been that of the middle ages, when thought lay strangled, and "heresy" was punished as the crime of crimes. All history teaches that the enemies of free speech are the enemies of the people. A censorship is always a shelter for infamy. More harm is done by repression than by the circulation of the most atrocious doctrines. Truth will always vanquish in open discussion, and never needs to be bolstered up by force. The persecutor may not unfairly be said to be always in the wrong, and to have no sincere reliance on what he pretends to revere as truth. Suppression of free speech points the way back to barbarism and to the loss of all that our civilization has gained.

The foregoing remarks are so self-evident that it is no less than astounding to find them actively challenged in this of all lands. The establishment of an Inquisition in the freest of countries is a phenomenon so startling and menacing as to deserve immediate and aroused attention. For over thirty years the foul serpent of censorship has been tightening its coils about our liberties, until now its head is boldly raised and its fangs displayed in the sight of all. Henceforth there can be no excuse for ignorance or indifference. With the vilest motives and purposes, it has made use of the best sentiments of our people in order to effect its foul ends. When the Congress of 1873, the "crime" year, in the rush of its closing days, with no debate or consideration, hurried through a harmless appearing bill against "obscene literature," few saw the deadly significance of the measure. Its proponent, the notorious Anthony Comstock, raised an insidious plea for the protection of our children against a flood of unhealthy prints and pamphlets, sold by unscrupulous dealers in order to pander to premature sexual excitement. The harm of these wretched things could not be questioned, and the average parent was only too ready to shirk his own duty of instruction, and to trust to prohibition to do the work that only education can accomplish. But that the Comstock law had any other or ulterior aim, not one dupe of the craftiest blackmailer in history had the faintest suspicion.

Having gained their first point, Comstock and his crew were at first very cautious in beginning their plotted work of persecution. Trusting in the inability of public ignorance and prejudice to separate the importance of a principle from the unpopularity of an individual in whose person it is denied, they first assailed one or two persons who had given much offence to the conventional world through the pronounced tone of their attack on institutions held sacred by others. This minimized the protest raised against these primary acts of outrage and injustice. As early as 1878, Comstock bragged before his Vice Society, in his official report, of his perversion of the law toward the end of suppressing ideas, as well as obscenity, and the steps already taken in that direction. He even expressed unequivocally the intention of destroying freedom of religious discussion. In this last aim, however, he has failed as yet; but his attempt to prevent education in matters of sex has succeeded beyond his highest expectation, bringing with it incal-

3003B1
de 21 43

calable misery and ruin to many thousands of victims of law-encouraged ignorance.

Step by step the conspiracy against intelligence has proceeded, until today we are confronted with a more startling infamy than even Comstock himself ever dared to champion. Paul Hull, superintendent of second class mails in Chicago, and R. P. Goodwin, assistant attorney-general for the Post Office Department, have made a bid for the chief seats in the Hall of Infamy reserved for the destroyers of liberty, the foes of knowledge, persecutors and enemies of the human race. The arrogance of these little men has actually reached the point of declaring all discussion of the sex question obscene and unavailable! Is it necessary to discuss such a monstrous proposition? If there is one thing most needed in this country, it is education on sex; and the men who would prevent it are the worst of criminals. Even Comstock himself has indorsed one set of treatises on sex life; and Roosevelt, of whose administration these officials form part, has discussed the question with great frankness, and in the most public manner.

The first use made of these rulings of the new American censorship is seen in the attacks on Moses Harman, of Chicago, and LUCIFER, his paper. He is under indictment; and issue after issue of his paper has been arbitrarily held up in the mails. This is only the beginning. If the outrages perpetrated on him fail to arouse the people, the conspirators will become emboldened to go further. Their intentions can no longer be mistaken, since their own speech has betrayed them. We are on the eve of one of the most serious struggles in history between intelligence and ignorance, liberty and slavery, science and brutality, medievalism and progress. The danger is not that any honest or intelligent man or woman will join hands with the Hulls and Goodwins. The only peril is that of indifference and inaction.

The Free Speech League has been formed as a nucleus around which to rally the opponents of a censorship. It is composed of men and women of every phase of opinion, who believe in preserving the freedom of speech, press, assemblage and mails, guaranteed to us by the constitution of the United States and essential to our existence as a free people. The League is not merely in embryo, but already actively at work. It is arousing public sentiment all over the country. Besides fighting the immediate battles for the victims of persecution, it is organizing a great national movement for the overthrow of the tyrannical and unconstitutional administrative process and the repeal of the pernicious Comstock law. For this work, large funds are necessary; but the preservation of our liberties is worth any price that can be paid. Contributions should be sent to E. B. Foote, Jr., M. D., 120 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y. The time to act is at once.

The entire conspiracy against free speech and a free press in America is laid bare in a pamphlet by the present writer, entitled "Do You Want Free Speech?" Price, 10 cents. Send to James F. Morton, Jr., 244 West 143rd St., New York, N. Y. "The Rights of Periodicals," by the same author, is a detailed exposure of the jugglery by the Post Office Department with the second-class mail matter, for the purpose of undermining free speech. Price, 5 cents, at the same address.

"Our Advancing Postal Censorship," by Louis F. Post, is an extremely searching examination of the administrative process. Price, 3 cents. Address The Public Publishing Company, First National Bank Building, Chicago, Ill.

Two other exceptionally valuable pamphlets are "Who Is the Enemy; Anthony Comstock or You?" by Edwin C. Walker, price 20 cents, and "The Conspiracy Against Free Speech and Free Press," by George Pyburn, M. D., price 6 cents. Both these may be ordered from E. C. Walker, 244 West 143rd St., New York, N. Y.

Let all who wish to understand the existing situation procure and read this small body of free speech literature. It will be found worth its cost many times over, in its salutary warning and its invaluable information. No reader of the startling array of facts presented will be able to doubt the gravity of the present crisis, or to escape from a sense of personal responsibility. The time has come to see whether Americans are worthy of freedom.—James F. Morton, Jr., in November "Tomorrow," Chicago.

[It is only just to say that Mr. Goodwin has denied that he made any such official ruling. The facts, however, the acts of suppression of six editions of LUCIFER, and the grounds for such suppression, speak for themselves.—Editor LUCIFER.]

Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.—John Milton.

FALSE MODESTY THE CAUSE OF DEPRAVITY.

The law against permitting "obscene" matter to be carried by United States mails was no doubt originally intended to exclude vulgar literature and pictures, French novels and salacious writings of all kinds, but unfortunately, under the present ruling by the postal authorities a broader sweep is given to the law, so that really vital matters pertaining to sex and motherhood, subjects of deep sociologic and general scientific significance are also excluded through the untrained and whimsical interpretation of the officers in charge.

Were these public servants versed in the meaning and realities of general democracy, no such ruling would be possible, else they would know that to stop discussion through the press of vital matters pertaining to sex and motherhood, means stagnation and a stoppage of advancement along those lines of thought which is pitiable in the light of the rapid increase of the divorce evil.

By way of showing that the evils of press censorship are liable to become much greater than the wholesale and unrestricted discussion of sex and marriage ever can be, it is pertinent to relate how the writer recently addressed a personal letter to a party in New York, which same was promptly sent back by the Post Office, bearing the stamp, "Returned on account of fraud."

It seems that the gentleman was an officer of a corporation that had declared dividends on stock which some enemies and detractors of his declared were unearned, although the statement of the corporation showed otherwise. Not only was the corporation promptly made bankrupt without trial by having its mail and remittance withheld, but the personal mail of its officers who, also without trial were declared frauds, was withheld and returned to the writers.

These rulings imply that none but honest men are to be allowed use of the mails, but still preachers who are promising heaven and hell, and who have never been known to make good, are permitted to receive their mail without challenge. Lawyers, from whom truth has fled these thousand years, still continue to receive their billet doux and bills and duns.

Not a word has been heard in regard to any intention of the Post Office Department stopping the mail of the Standard Oil Company, the Beef Trust, or of any Railroad Company giving rebates, or of any Insurance Company practicing all kinds of frauds, and so we ask, wherefore this strange discrimination?

As educators, we take issue with the Post Office Censorship, the Government and all the pious frauds who clack of things they know not of, for we know that even small children should be told all about the reproduction of plants, animals and human beings just as rapidly as they show any interest in these topics, and they should be told them by people for whom they have respect, and in language that decency employs, instead of being compelled to gain their knowledge as sneaks from the rough scuff of the streets and from obscene verses and pictures in lavatories and alley ways. Any listener to the talk of urchins in the street going to and from school or in their romps together on Saturday, may secure ample evidence of the vileness and depravity of the language being constantly employed by children eight or nine years old on these "sacred" topics. Parents, preachers and Anthony Comstocks had better awaken to the fact that it is their false modesty that is the cause of this depravity and foul language, for were the real truths of sex and everything pertaining to life and living given to the growing mind on the proper plane and in a clean and wholesome spirit, through the medium of commonsense parents and a free press, this knowledge would assume its proper place and proportion with all other knowledge, and the atrocious and shocking grossness that characterizes nine-tenths of the language of children at play would be much modified, if not done away with entirely.

In a country, however, where the husbands and sons of American mothers spend five times as much for liquor and tobacco as they do for the entire cost of education, and support thousands of houses of prostitution and gambling, all unnecessary, unnatural and foolish, by what right or reason need we expect them to employ real common sense or common decency in other directions?

There is much hypocrisy and pretense carried on these days under the guise of protecting children, ergo, substituting ignorance for innocence, a strange paradox, when actual contact and acquaintance with these strange and elusive creatures of eight years old often discovers them to be past masters in the knowledge of the salacious material that their "protectors" are struggling to keep away from them. More confessions anon.—Parker H. Sercombe, Editorial in November "Tomorrow," Chicago.

LUCIFER.

THE LIGHT-BEARER.

MOSES HARMAN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY AT 600 FULTON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One year.....\$1.00 Three months5 cents
Six months.....50 cents Single copies.....5 cents
Hereafter Lucifer will not be sent to subscribers after expiration of subscription except by special request. Please compare number on your wrapper with whole number of paper, and if your subscription is about to expire notify us if you wish to continue to receive Lucifer.

EASTERN REPRESENTATIVE:

E. C. WALKER, 24 WEST 142D STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

LUCIFER: ITS MEANING AND PURPOSE.

LUCIFER—The planet Venus; so called from its brightness.—Webster's Dictionary.

LUCIFEROUS—Giving light; affording light or the means of discovery.—Same.

LUCIFIC—Producing light.—Same.

LUCIFORM—Having the form of light.—Same.

The name Lucifer means Light-Bringing or Light-Bearing, and the paper that has adopted this name stands for Light against Darkness—for Reason against Superstition—for Science against Tradition—for Investigation and Enlightenment against Credulity and Ignorance—for Liberty against Slavery—for Justice against Privilege.

CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.—*First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.*

THE TEMPEST IN NEW YORK.

Back in the forties and fifties of last century, as some of us are young enough to remember, the great eastern dailies and weeklies would occasionally report great excitement over the attempts to discuss in public the merits and demerits of the relation between the African slave and his Anglo-Saxon master. And sometimes the publication of a book treating of the same subject, such as the book called "Uncle Tom's Cabin," would raise a similar commotion, and in both cases there would be attempts at suppression of discussion of what was by common consent considered an improper if not dangerous subject.

Much in the same way now, a half century or more later, the papers occasionally report much excitement over the attempt to discuss, in a radical and thorough-going manner, the sex relations of women and men—that is to say, the relation of masculine man as sex employer, or sex owner, and of feminine man as sex employee—sex hiring for a limited time, or sex servant or slave for a lifetime.

A noteworthy instance of this determination on the part of the self-elected guardians of the best interests of human society to prevent the showing up, in a realistic way, the defects—"the seamy side"—of the system of sex ethics sanctioned or at least condoned by church and state authorities, was lately witnessed in New York, the commercial metropolis of the United States and most populous city on the American continent. The occasion of this unusual commotion among the guardians of sex-morality, of sex-orthodoxy, was the attempt to place the books of George Bernard Shaw on the shelves of the New York public library, and later the attempt to present to the theater-going public of New York one of the plays of this writer, showing in a truthful way, a matter of fact way, the actual working of this much-lauded and sacredly guarded sex employer and sex service system.

The play that provoked the wrath of these self-elected guardians is entitled "Mrs. Warren's Profession."

LUCIFER's editor has not read this play, has not seen it enacted, but he is now reading for the first time one of Shaw's most noted books, "Man and Superman." On page 186 of this work, under the head "The Revolutionists Handbook," appears this significant paragraph:

"One fact must be faced resolutely in spite of the shrieks of the romantic. There is no evidence that the best citizens are the

offspring of congenial marriages, or that a conflict of temperament is not a highly important part of what breeders call crossing. On the contrary it is quite sufficiently probable that good results may be obtained from parents who would be extremely unsuitable companions and partners, to make it certain that the experiment of mating them will sooner or later be tried purposely almost as often as it is now tried accidentally.

"But mating such couples must clearly not involve marrying them. In conjugation two complementary persons may supply one another's deficiencies: in the domestic partnership of marriage they only feel them and suffer from them.

"Thus the son of a robust, cheerful, eupeptic British country squire, with the tastes and range of his class, and of a clever, imaginative, intellectual, highly civilized Jewess, might be very superior to both his parents; but it is not likely that the Jewess would find the squire an interesting companion, or his habits, his friends, his place and mode of life congenial to her.

"Therefore, marriage, whilst it is made an indispensable condition of mating, will delay the advent of the Superman as effectually as Property, and will be modified by the impulse toward him just as effectually."

From these paragraphs it will be seen that Bernard Shaw attacks both institutional marriage and institutional property. His real offense, then, is much the same as that of LUCIFER, and the wonder is not that the guardians of conventional marriage morality and conventional property superstitions should have taken alarm and should have forbidden the general reading of Shaw's book—by the young—and prohibited the performance of such of his dramas as show the legitimate fruits of the masculine sex-ownership system. The wonder is rather that the clergy and the Grundies, male and female, have not taken the alarm sooner and caused the arrest and confiscation of Shaw's books and plays, for the same reasons, under same pretexts, that they have caused the arrest and confiscation of LUCIFER and the arrest, conviction and imprisonment of its editor. M. H.

LETTERS TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

For some weeks we have been in receipt of letters containing information regarding correspondence between LUCIFER's friends and the office of President Roosevelt at Washington. The following are some of the sample letters said to have been sent to the chief executive of the United States government:

October 28, 1905.

President Theodore Roosevelt, Washington, D. C.

Your Excellency—The undersigned wishes to record his protest against the rulings and actions of Superintendent of the Postoffice Department at Chicago in denying mail facilities to the magazine LUCIFER, conducted by M. Harman. The writer believes that if the enormous mass of matter concerning the relations of God and man be permitted postal circulation there is no reason for suppressing the mail distribution of publications which deal in an entirely scientific and reverent, if candid, manner with the social and sexual relations of man and woman, whose creation is attributed to the Deity. It would seem that any stretching of the laws whereby such publications are refused the use of the mails is entirely out of harmony with the spirit of the age and the putatively enlightened character of our government.

Yours respectfully,
FAY LEWIS.

Colorado City, Colo., October 26, 1905.

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States.

Sir—I am now and for years have been a subscriber of a paper called LUCIFER, the Light Bearer, edited by one Moses Harman of Chicago. Of late I have missed several copies and upon investigation have found that the paper has been stopped by the postoffice department, and in some instances destroyed under the plea that it was obscene. I would like to know by what right the postoffice destroys my property. I would like to know by what reason the postoffice department says that my family and myself are of low moral character, for saying that the paper is obscene is another way of saying that its readers are of low morals. Inclosed find clipping from which you will see that two of the condemned articles are taken from a ladies' journal and one from literature sent through the mails by the government itself. I hope the matter will be looked into and the guilty officials called to account.

Respectfully yours,
H. HANSEN.

Bank of Hecla, Hecla, S. D., October 25, 1905.

Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.
Dear Sir—At the age of 18 years I left home to take a position as telegraph operator and station agent.

My mother, who had a strong personality and a strong confidence in knowledge as against ignorance, especially in matters sexual. She subscribed for and had sent to me a few years a paper treating on sexual science called LUCIFER, the Light Bearer, in which is contained a free discussion of the theme, since which time I have been a constant subscriber (in all twenty-four years).

I think the free discussion of the subject has caused me to comprehend the situation much clearer, and I am firmer and more virtuous than I would have been had I remained in ignorance.

I notice that of late several copies of my paper have not reached me, and am informed that the postal authorities have held up those

editions on the claim that they were obscene. Now it appears to me as rather unjust and un-American to let some one officer constitute himself judge and jury and without notice or hearing confiscate the editions of a paper whose aim is a higher and purer humanity, and it appeals to me that its editor is being persecuted rather than prosecuted.

I think that if you will familiarize yourself with the facts in this case that you will find that an injustice is being done and that you would have it remedied.

I am sending herewith some matter from John Gordon, 46 Van Buren street, Chicago, Ill., just as I received it through the mail a few days ago. This appeals to me as vulgar and astonishes me that anybody would send it through the mail. I refer it to you that it may receive proper attention.

I trust that you will see that LUCIFER and its editor gets a square deal. Yours very truly.

ARTHUR E. CLARKE.

★ ★ ★

So far as we have heard, no direct answer from Roosevelt himself has been received by the writers of these letters, but several answers from Mr. Hitchcock, first assistant postmaster general, have been sent to the writers, saying their letters to the president had been referred to him and that they would receive proper attention.

While we of Lucifer's office prefer not to suggest any form of letter to those who are now adopting the advice of the Free Speech League the hope is hereby expressed that such letters should take the form of remonstrance and protest rather than of petition. Why should an American citizen, man or woman, take the attitude of petitioner when addressing a public servant, whether the highest or lowest of these servants?

To my thinking one great cause of the abuse of power in the hands of public officials is the very deferential attitude of the average citizen towards such officials. When a farmer employs a helper on his farm, is it customary to address a petition to the farm hand, humbly praying him to do certain work in a certain way?

And so likewise, when a merchant or manufacturer employs clerks or mechanics, skilled or unskilled, does the employer of such labor present a petition to his employees, in humble and guarded phraseology, when he finds that something is going wrong in the details of a large and complicated business?

Do the American people really know that they are not now living under a monarchy and aristocracy?

Do they really know that Washington and Rochambeau won the battle over Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown? M. H.

THOSE SCURRILOUS POSTAL CARDS.

Hugh O. Pentecost, in his lecture in the Grand Opera House, Chicago, on Sunday, November 5, spoke of the danger of increasing the powers of the executive arm of the federal government. He mentioned the fact that the victims of these usurpations of executive authority are usually persons who lack wealth and influence to resist it, and in that way precedents are made for further usurpations. As an instance of such arbitrary use of executive power he mentioned the seizure and confiscation of several issues of LUCIFER by the post-office authorities.

As LUCIFER is an unconventional paper the postal authorities felt safe in confiscating it "without due process of law," and doubtless their action was approved by many persons who do not approve of LUCIFER's teachings. But these very persons failed to see the danger of establishing such a precedent. They failed to foresee the time when a similar arbitrary ruling may exclude from the mails papers which advocate some social, religious or political doctrine in which they believe.

The danger was exemplified in a striking manner on November 4, when Postmaster Wilcox of New York City sent out an order for the confiscation of 361,000 postal cards which had been mailed to voters by Tammany Hall. On each of these cards was printed a cartoon picturing President McKinley above a red bomb, the fuse of which was burning, while in the background was the fleeing figure of a man labeled "Hearst." It bore the inscription, "Lest We Forget," and contained alleged extracts from one of Mr. Hearst's newspapers.

The cards were confiscated on the grounds that they were "scurrilous." Doubtless many readers of LUCIFER will agree that they were scurrilous. Some, perhaps, will say that they ought to have been confiscated.

Those who take this latter view place themselves in line with the persons who approved of the confiscation of LUCIFER on the ground that it was—well, improper. But what authority has the

postmaster to decide what is improper or what is scurrilous? Where is the line to be drawn between proper and improper literature, between scurrilous and non-scurrilous postal cards?

Has there ever been a campaign conducted in any large city since the newspapers began the printing of cartoons when many of the papers did not contain pictures which were scurrilous in the judgment of the persons depicted in the cartoons?

I make no apology for the postal cards which Postmaster Wilcox confiscated. The pictures were disreputable and misleading. They were to be circulated with the evident intention of making voters believe:

That William McKinley was killed by an anarchist, which is untrue.

That William R. Hearst is an anarchist, which is untrue.

That William R. Hearst instigated the killing of McKinley, which is untrue.

I was employed on one of Mr. Hearst's papers for three years and I know that he and all his sub-editors were so opposed to anarchy that it was practically impossible to have a fair statement of the views of an anarchist published in any of his papers.

But that is not the point at issue. If the postmaster has power to decide what cartoons are mailable and what are not mailable it is easy to see that he could confiscate entire issues of every newspaper of the party to which he is opposed.

I am glad those postal cards were seized. Not because I think the postmaster had a right to seize them, but because his act perhaps will reveal to the public the danger of permitting such usurpations of authority.

So long as only financially weak and comparatively unknown persons are victims of this bureaucratic tyranny there is little hope of checking it. But when such a powerful organization as Tammany Hall is a sufferer possibly the nation may be aroused to put a curb on too officious public servants. JONATHAN MAYO CRANE.

LOCAL LECTURES AND MEETINGS.

The eighteenth annual memorial celebration in commemoration of the victims of the Chicago labor movement—August Spies, Albert Parsons, Louis Lingg, Geo. Engel and A. Fischer. Given under the auspices of labor organizations, turners, singing societies and others, Saturday, November 11, 1905, Aurora Hall, Milwaukee avenue and Huron street, commencing at 6 p. m. Tickets 10 cents.

Sunday, November 12, Mabel McCoy Irwin of New York will speak at the Grand Opera House, Chicago, on Walt Whitman, the Poet Liberator of Woman, under the auspices of the Spencer Whitman Center. Lecture to commence at 11 o'clock a. m. Admission free. All invited.

Meetings of the Spencer-Whitman Center, 2238 Calumet avenue, are held Mondays and Thursdays of each week. Lectures begin at 8 p. m. Discussions follow the lecture. All invited to participate.

The Chicago Society of Anthropology holds regular meetings Sunday afternoons in Corinthian Hall, seventeenth floor Masonic building. Meetings open at 2:30. All invited.

Chicago Social Science Club meets every Sunday at 8 o'clock p. m. in Hall 913, Masonic Building.

A CALIFORNIA IDEA.

"I, O. A. Verity, do hereby authorize and empower Moses Harman or his legally constituted agent to proceed in a criminal action against the postal inspector and postmaster at Chicago, Ill., first assistant postmaster and postmaster general at Washington, D. C., for robbery of the United States mails and willfully and maliciously extracting therefrom and destroying and causing to be destroyed five copies of a paper called LUCIFER that was addressed to me, and placed therein by the editor and publisher of said paper to be delivered by common carrier to my address, and on account of their destroying said papers I have been deprived of the knowledge and opportunity to gain knowledge that I believe would have been a value to me of the sum of \$50. Therefore I also empower him to commence civil action against the aforesaid parties in a suit for damages for the said \$50 and cost of suit.

I herewith enclose \$1 to help defray my share of said suit, and promise \$1 per month or as much as is needed thereof to take the suit through the highest courts in the United States.

How many of LUCIFER's subscribers will stand by me in this suit, uniting their suit with mine, thus putting the courts of our land on record as to whether this high-handed outrage of destroying the mail of peaceable citizens will receive their approval?

Yours,

OLIVER A. VERITY,

1523 Market street, Oakland, Cal.

THE DISHONEST CARRIER.

[The following are the opening paragraphs of a large circular a bundle of which was lately received at this office. No name is attached thereto, and nothing to show by whom written or published.]

M. H.

A gentleman had sold a quantity of goods to several thousand persons. These goods were paid for in advance, and were to be delivered in parcels two a month. Occasion arose in which the dealer prepared a double parcel, several of his customers having paid for extra parcels. He took these parcels to the public carrier, paid for their delivery and went home thinking all was well.

Presently he began receiving word from his customers that they had not received their parcels. He went to the carrier's office to learn why, and found that there were some things in the double number which did not please the carrier, who always had a sample, and because of it they had been sent to the headquarters of the general delivery office and there burned.

"What right had you to destroy the property of several thousand people, who had paid me for these goods, and thus prevent me from fulfilling my contract," asked the man who had given the parcels into the keeping of the Carrier Co.

To this no satisfactory answer was given. Now what should be done with one who has violated public trust?

"His license should be taken away from him, and he should be imprisoned," is the unanimous verdict! If he has property, enough of it should be taken to make up the loss, and if not he should be made to work out the amount."

A just verdict. Let those robbed thousands prosecute the offender, and put in their claims for what is their due.

But hold! That public carrier is the postal department of the United States Government. Those parcels were newspapers, and the double number confiscated contained matter that the clerk of second-class mail did not like, so he falsified, told the publisher it was obscene, thinking thus to justify his lawless act. The articles condemned are not obscene, as I will give you a chance to judge for yourselves before I am done. And surely, you who read these lines, are as capable of judging as is a postal clerk in Chicago, the clerk who sent the whole edition of "LUCIFER, the Light-Bearer," No. 1042, to Washington, D. C., where, in defiance of the rights of both publisher and subscribers, it was unlawfully burned.

What is the language of this unlawful proceeding? Simply this: We have pronounced the matter obscene and you dare not send it out to the public, and thus uncover our falsehood."

Will the thousands thus robbed be thus cowardly? Some of them will not.

AGAIN THE CENSORSHIP.

We have received from Mr. Harman, by sealed mail, a copy of his paper which has been denied mail privileges by the Chicago post-office censor, one Mr. Hull. The matter which the censor objects to is marked. It bears out what we said some time ago that the evident intention is to suppress LUCIFER. There cannot be any pretense whatever that the matter marked is obscene. One article is a list of books on the subject of sexual relations, and the other is a letter from a woman in Australia, in which she quotes G. Bernard Shaw in "Man and Superman," and a writer in the Fortnightly Review on "The Marriage Contract in Its Relation to Social Progress." There is simply nothing to either of the articles obnoxious to any law, and if the case could be taken to court we feel sure Mr. Harman would win. But that would settle the matter for only that one issue of the paper, and the censor could condemn another and force him to go again to court. Practically, therefore, Mr. Harman will be forced to give up his propaganda. He will have to make LUCIFER another sort of a journal or move out of Chicago. We do not think there is another postoffice official in the country who would condemn the matter marked in the copy of LUCIFER sent us.

As we have said before, there are a few questions which should be crowded home to the postoffice authorities. Where do they find their legal authority to suppress matter without bringing the publisher to trial? Where does Mr. Goodwin, one of the Washington postoffice authorities, find his law permitting him to say what subjects shall be discussed in the public prints? There is no such law, and until President Roosevelt set the example of making law by official ruling the postoffice people did not arrogate to themselves that power. Mr. Madden made law by ruling on what is second-class matter, properly entitled to pound rates of postage, for he denied

postal privileges to publications only on the ground that they properly came under another head, and could be mailed by paying another rate of postage. It has remained for Mr. Hull of Chicago to make of himself a Russian censor.

The Free Speech League has asked each subscriber to LUCIFER to write a respectful letter of protest to President Roosevelt in this matter, and it may well happen that the Free Thinkers should add the weight of their numbers in the matter. We suggest that we all write to him protesting against the acts of his subordinates in suppressing papers dealing with subjects they do not care for in a way they do not like. The freedom of the press is dangerously threatened. If the say-so of the postoffice attorney is good as to LUCIFER why not as to other papers? Chicago once had a daily paper (perhaps it still has) which published the advertisements of the scarlet women. Mr. Hull did not interfere with that, nor does he interfere with the many prurient publications which emanate from the presses of the city. This indubitably shows that he is after one paper because it deals with one subject. He is establishing a censorship of ideas, which is not only un-American as to its broad aspect, but is illegal and unconstitutional in its narrow phase. Write to President Roosevelt and protest against this press censorship.—"Truth Seeker," New York, October 28, 1905.

SHALL THE PRESS BE MUZZLED?

Editor of "The Globe:"

Sir—George Bernard Shaw's comparison of the United States and England, reference to which is made in your editorial "Nastier Than Supposed," may or may not be fair, but it is nevertheless true that there is a tendency in this country to put a ban on unpopular ideas. We may disagree with Mr. Shaw as to marriage being "the most licentious of human institutions," but shall we muzzle a writer because he does not agree with us on the marriage question? Take the case of the paper mentioned in Mr. Shaw's letter. It is a little fortnightly publication devoted to the discussion of sex problems, and its literary style is beyond reproach. Its editor has recently been sentenced to a year's imprisonment for publishing an article of a very innocent nature, and the paper is now censored by the postal authorities before delivery to subscribers; and if anything in it does not please the censors the whole edition of the paper is destroyed. And why? Simply because the editor holds unconventional views on social questions, as no attempt is made to show that there was any indelicate language in his paper. Now, it may be well enough to suppress vulgarity and obscenity, but to prosecute a man for expressing ideas in decent language, no matter how unpopular these ideas may be, is an outrage. Are the American people in favor of a postoffice censorship of the most odious kind? Is it possible that we are introducing the methods of the Russian autocracy into the land of freedom?—Cyrus W. Coolidge in "New York Globe."

New York, September 27.

PRESS WRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

October 30, 1905.

To the Editor of LUCIFER:

About September 1, 1905, I accepted the duties and office of general secretary of the American Press Writers' Association, General Secretary A. C. Armstrong telling me he was overworked and too busy to do the duties thereof. I expect he will later make a full report of the great and good work done while he was general secretary.

I wish LUCIFER and other publications to aid in asking old members to send me their permanent addresses, though it be the same as per the old card list. I hope funds may be supplied to have new lists of members printed. Every member ought to be active, as is shown by the trials, persecutions and annoyances pressed on the warrior for liberty, justice and equality—Moses Harman. Yours truly,

Suite 2, 134 Isabella St., Boston, Mass. A. F. HILL,

BAS RELIEF MEDALLIONS OF MOSES HARMAN.

Bas relief medallions of the bust of Moses Harman, size 9 by 14 inches (oval), the work of La Verne F. Wheeler, a well-known Chicago artist, can be had at the following prices: Plain white, \$1; old ivory, \$1.50; plain bronze, \$2; Etruscan bronze, \$2.50. Thirty-five cents additional for boxing and shipping. The proceeds of sales, after deducting bare cost, are to be devoted to the defense of LUCIFER's editor. Send orders to La Verne F. Wheeler, 3829 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

VARIOUS VOICES.

Full name and address of writers in this department can generally be obtained on application to the editor.

We are always glad to receive calls from friends visiting the city. Take the Lake street elevated, stop at Ashland avenue, walk one block east, then one block north. Or take Fulton street electric car west and stop at St. John's place, alighting in front of our house. The Lake street electric and Paulina street cars also pass within a block of our residence.

J. ALLEN EVANS, Cripple Creek, Colo.—Times here are exceedingly dull. The "scab" miners send their money out of the camp and Cripple Creek is on the ragged edge financially.

ANNIE B. FISH, Newburgh, N. Y.—I think Mr. Watson's idea a very good one. So here is my first 25 cents and I, too, will try to send one every month. With best wishes I remain, yours for truth.

G. M., Pennsylvania.—O I am so glad that so many thinking people are attacking the postal tyranny. It is a shame that you should be a martyr to the cause, but it is a great cause. My whole heart is with you. Inclosed is check for \$2.

"The Star," James H. Barry, Editor, San Francisco, Cal.—Enclosed find money order for \$5, which use as you see fit. I need not tell you that Mr. Barry's heart goes out to you in your persecution. God grant that freedom of speech and press may not be strangled. Mr. Barry would like to do more than this for you (the cause), but he has so many calls for financial assistance that he can not fulfill his desires in these things. Mr. Barry is extremely busy and unable to take time to answer all his friends, so he directed me to give you his regards and godspeed.

O. H. STONE, Baring, Wash.—It is self-evident that the postal authorities desire the death of LUCIFER very much, judging by the flimsy excuses they resort to in order to bar it from the mails. It is therefore still more important to keep the good old ship afloat. I have complied with the request of the Free Speech League, although I have very little faith in appeals of this kind. But of course we should leave no stone unturned in our effort to obtain justice, and it can't possibly hurt to make our grievances known. This is not a very good field for missionary work, but you may send me a few of the leaflets you mention and I will distribute them among my fellow-workers. I enclose \$5 to be used as needed.

A. F. HILL, Boston, Mass.—Enclosed are 10 cents in stamps for postage. I do not care for you to endanger yourself by sending me any condemned ideas. I am not afraid to read anything you might send me, but I have read the Holy Bible, therefore my mind is trained so that you can't suggest any worse ideas than David of forty wives, and Solomon of one thousand women. The New Testament authors teach no marriage or giving in marriage in heaven (a place and condition on earth), and the Lord's prayer asks to have it on earth as it was in heaven 1800 years ago. Now, be cheerful. Keep clear within the law of the majority, as you ought to know how to do. I have asked the postmaster general some questions today and await a reply.

J. T. P., Fremont street, Seattle, Wash.—In reply to yours of the 17th inst. will say that I like your paper, yet it advocates that old wornout doctrine that "Evil needs resistance." Resistance is warfare, and warfare is eternally wrong, for the result is might instead of right. To my request for a lady correspondent, which appeared in LUCIFER October 22, 1903, not a single response was received. This is conclusive evidence that this superior class of female readers still prefer preaching to practice and I have become weary of preaching alone, and as I have no money to assist in spreading light among the thinkers (many of whom have more light than I possess) I will ask you to discontinue sending LUCIFER when my subscription expires. Yours for the uplifting of others through one's self.

H. M. ADDISON, Adelaide, South Australia.—I am in receipt of yours of 18th July last. Let me first say that I hardly care to offer you sympathy without relief, for fear I should be considered as one of those who say "Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled," and yet give not the things which are needful. But I grieve that you should be so persecuted "for righteousness' sake." What a race of silly pruders and hypocrites dominate not only you but also the world. I presume "The Bible" is available in America, though probably none of your persecutors, nor the proprietor of any newspaper printed

in English, would dare to publish "selections" from it. I intensely admire your moral courage in a noble cause. I will distribute as many circulars and LUCIFERS as you like to forward to me.

R. B. KERR.—In my recent article on "The Degradation of Women by Puritanism," I said that the actress Rachel was the only eminent Jewess. I now find that Sarah Bernhardt is also a Jewess. That only enforces my argument, however. France has had far more famous women than any other country, and it seems that, although the Jews are scattered through all nations, the only eminent Jewesses have been French Jewesses. That shows that the social and moral conditions of France are particularly favorable to women.

GAYLORD WILSHIRE, Editor "Wilshire's Magazine," New York City.—It seems to me the postoffice has gone daffy in regard to you, and I feel that you are fighting for a principle which certainly will be of the greatest importance to the people of the United States at a very near day. I doubt if we can ever do very much towards freedom, however, as long as we have capitalism. I fear the censorship will grow stronger and stronger with the increased power of the capitalists and that we will not get rid of the censor until we have socialism.

I sent an account of your stuff to Bernard Shaw, 10 Adelphi Terrace, London, Eng., with the result that when he wrote to the New York "Times" recently he mentioned you, which I suppose you noticed.

C. L. JAMES, Eau Claire, Wis.—When a copy of LUCIFER is put into the postoffice addressed to me, who have paid for it, it is no longer the editor's property; and talk about confiscating his property is irrelevant, whichever side it comes from. That copy of LUCIFER is my property. If it is obscene, that's not my fault. Ordering and receiving obscene matter by mail is not forbidden; though depositing it in the mail is. Comstock does the former every day. Neither have I been "fraud-ordered." Then the postmaster at Chicago, or elsewhere, has no right to confiscate (steal) my property. He could be prosecuted for doing so; but a better course is to sue him. If he says he acted by orders from Washington, that only affords ground for suing the post master general also. It does not exonerate himself. This is exactly what I should do if I could pay a lawyer.

EDWARD SECREST, Randolph, Kan.—I was glad to see by the note received the other day that you are still footloose and breathing the lake air outside of prison bars. This outburst of Comstockism is making propaganda for the cause of right and truth, liberty of press and speech, every day. Just let the sleuth-hounds yelp and snarl as they follow your tracks. This disgraceful attitude of our postal inquisitors at Chicago and Washington is opening the eyes of more than one thoughtful, patriotic citizen up and down our broad land, especially among your editorial collaborators. They see how surely, though little by little, "Coming events cast their shadows before;" how a growing imperialism is feeding the apathetic "herd" with homeopathic doses of Old World despotism and medieval methods. So we must keep up the fight, lie on our arms and store up ammunition. I see my subscription is due you for the brave little LUCIFER. Enclosed find \$2 to cover another year's voyage on the turbulent sea. The remainder apply where most needed. I have petitioned the throne at Washington direct. Don't know just how humble in tone I addressed our servant (f). I enclose the petition, not for publication, but just to ask you whether I used the King's English in diplomatic form! I sent Editor Harrop, of the Manhattan "Mercury," a copy of LUCIFER and the manifesto of the Free Speech League, and asked him to say something about your case, and the postal satraps whenever the sign was right. He is a liberal, and independent thinker, an able writer, and a fearless, outspoken journalist. The "Mercury" is a long established Democratic paper, the most heretical paper west of Topeka, if not in the state, and is cordially hated by the clericals. I thank you most sincerely for your warm words of sympathy. They do good and are welcome these lonely days and dark hours. But through all the gloom we have the sweet memory of comradeship in the past and warm hearted, whole souled communion with dear friends and fellow workers of the Auld Lang Syne. That you and your good daughter may see the silver lining in the murky, black and threatening cloud overhanging your rooftop is the sincere wish of, yours sincerely,

[This letter is from a former "Regent" of the State Agricultural College of Kansas, a farmer by occupation, but one who has wielded not a little influence in the reform politics of his adopted state. The copy of the letter to Roosevelt sent, not for publication, is in the form of petition, rather than of protest. Part of it reads as follows: "Your humble petitioner has read the paper LUCIFER for many years; is personally acquainted with the publisher and knows him as an honorable, kindly, sincere citizen and noble-hearted humanitarian; knows that the charges of 'obscenity' against him are unfounded if not ridiculous. As an American citizen your petitioner feels himself aggrieved by the arbitrary and high-handed, f

not unconstitutional, method of seizing our property and condemning it without judge or jury, and believing that this action of the postal authorities is un-American in spirit, anti-democratic, an infringement on the liberty of the press, against the genius of our cherished institutions and our country's beloved flag, which flag your petitioner had the honor to carry at the head of a Kansas regiment in the late civil war—your petitioner most respectfully entreats the President to kindly inquire into this case and give us a hearing at his earliest convenience. And, as in duty bound, your petitioner will ever pray."

Mr. Secrest (*Sigrist*, as originally spelled) was born and reared in Europe, hence it is not strange that he adopts the old-world petition rather than remonstrance when asking for redress of grievances. It seems hard for the American citizen, whether native or foreign born, to remember that this is a "government of the people, by the people and for the people," and not a government of officials by officials and for officials. Perhaps we have not yet suffered enough from the abuse of the power that we delegate to these officials.—M. H.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

You Can Easily Operate This Typewriter Yourself.



Don't worry your correspondent.
Don't write him anything by hand that takes him time to make out—that may leave him in doubt—that he can't easily read.

And don't fill out legal papers or card memos—or make out accounts or hotel menus in your own handwriting.

It looks bad, reflects on your standing, makes people think you can't afford a stenographer, and is sometimes ambiguous.

You can write out your letters—make out an abstract—fill in an insurance policy—enter your card memos—make out your accounts, or a hotel menu—or do any kind of writing you need, on any kind, size or thickness of paper, and space any way you want on

The OLIVER Typewriter

The Standard Visible Writer.

You can write any of these things yourself if you do not happen to have a stenographer.

For you can easily learn, with a little practice, to write just as rapidly, and as perfectly, as an expert operator on the OLIVER. Because the OLIVER is the simplified typewriter. And you can see every word you write. About 80 per cent more durable than any other typewriter, because it has about 80 per cent less wearing points than most other typewriters.

80 per cent easier to write with than these other complicated, intricate machines that require "humoring"—technical knowledge—long practice and special skill to operate.

Than machines which cannot be adjusted to any special space—with which it is impossible to write abstracts, insurance policies, or odd-sized documents except you buy expensive special attachments requiring experts to operate.

You can adjust the OLIVER to any reasonable space—you can write on any reasonable size and thickness of paper, right out to the very edge, without the aid of any expensive attachment or special skill, and your work will be neat appearing, legible and clear.

For the OLIVER is the typewriter for the doctor, the lawyer, the insurance agent, the merchant, the hotel proprietor—or any man who does his own writing.

Write us now for our booklet on the simplified features of the OLIVER.

THE OLIVER TYPEWRITER CO.
166-168 Wabash Av., Chicago.

WANTED—Copy of Freethought Magazine, published in 1893, containing the life and portrait of the late Dyer D. Lum. Please state price and condition. Address John Jacobs, 187½ Ontario street, Cleveland, Ohio.

A sober and honest man would like to correspond with a liberal-minded woman in New York City or vicinity. Address "Sterling," 181 Greenwich street, New York City.

1052

If these figures correspond with the number printed on the wrapper of your Lucifer, your subscription expires with this number.
If a copy of Lucifer fails to reach you, please order by number or date.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

A VOLUME OF POEMS

BY

WILLIAM FRANCIS BARNARD,

Associate Editor of "Tomorrow."

"THE MOODS OF LIFE."

A collection of verse which will be sure to attract attention among those who are looking for new poetry. The author has been a contributor to American magazines for several years, and is well known as a poet of modernity with a remarkable gift of imaginative expression.

12mo Cloth; Gilt title; 160 pages.

\$1.00 POSTPAID.

READY NOV. 1ST.

THE ROOKS PRESS.

THE ROOKERY.

CHICAGO, ILL.

THOUGHTS OF A FOOL,

A book which deals with all the questions of the day: Sex, Popular Morality, "Success," "The Man to Be," "Life's Message," "Symbols and Tags," "The Universal Secret," etc., etc., in a manner boldly original.

ONE HUNDRED OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS can have a chance to read a copy, for the publishers have offered 100 copies to OUR SUBSCRIBERS at the SPECIAL RATE OF \$1.00.

(IT'S A \$1.50 BOOK.)

It's been widely read, much reviewed and has created a storm of criticism and praise.

Don't send for it, if you don't want strong stuff, original thought, bold views that may shock your prejudices.

Don't send for it if you have prejudices!

AND THERE ARE ONLY 100 COPIES ANYWAY AT THIS PRICE, \$1.00.

We'll return your money if the 100 are sold when it reaches us.

FOR PEOPLE WHO THINK.

TOMORROW MAGAZINE.

A monthly Hand-Book of the Changing Order. Devoted to Educational, Political and Social Progress. A rational and progressive publication which deals with causes instead of effects in its treatment of the vital questions of the day. One dollar a year. Ten cents a copy. Published at the Spencer Whitman Center, 2238 Calumet avenue, Chicago, Ill.

THE STRIKE OF A SEX.

A NOVEL BY GEORGE N. MILLER.

FORTIETH THOUSAND.

"The Strike of a Sex" is a fascinating novel bearing upon the sexual relations. It is a bold protest against the customary life of most married people, and at the same time a prophecy of happier conditions between man and wife. Prepaid, 25c.

M. HARMAN, 500 Fulton st., Chicago, Ill.

LOVE'S WAY TO PERFECT HUMANHOOD.

By Agnes Benham.

An excellent companion for Carpenter's "Love's Coming of Age." The keynote of the book, found on page 74, reads thus: "The soul itself is pure and heavenly, and if at the moment of conception and through the prenatal time when it is building its earthly house it could meet with entirely responsive and congenial conditions, then would the earth be peopled with a race of gods." Price \$1. Published by the author, Agnes Benham, Adelaide, South Australia. Orders may be sent through this office.

THE TRUTH SEEKER. Monthly. Edited by J. W. Gott, Bradford. The last man in England prosecuted for Blasphemy. This paper creates a sensation wherever it goes. One shilling six pence per annum, post free; single copies, 5c. American agency: Lucifer, 504 Fulton st., Chicago.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

OTTO WETSTEIN,

THE LIBERAL MAIL-ORDER JEWELER.

Now permanent at No. 110 N. Kensington av., La Grange, Cook Co., Ill. Can save you 10 to 20 per cent on Watches, Diamonds or anything in the Jeweler's Line. Write me and receive prices and my great little tract, "Theism in the Crucible," free.

J. H. GREER, M. D.,

33 DEARBORN ST., CHICAGO.

Office Hours—9 a. m. to 5 p. m.; Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 a. m. to 3 p. m.; Sundays, 9 a. m. to 12 m. Telephone Randolph 41.

DR. OGILVIE A. RICE,

DENTIST.

1554 MILWAUKEE AVE., COR. WESTERN, CHICAGO.

Telephone West 141.

PHILIP G. PEABODY,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
15 COURT SQUARE, ROOM 2,
BOSTON, MASS.